

***TIPPECANOE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 3, 2009***

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council members present were: Chairman Garry Smith, Jimmy Kesterson, Perry Martin, Dave Reagan Captain Mike Frances and Nathan Miller. Also present were Director Mark Kirby and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

Captain Frances moved to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2009, second by Jimmie Kesterson; motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Smith welcomed new member Perry Martin to the board. In today's meeting he would like to discuss the use of the Reverse 911 equipment owned by the county and discuss the emergency warning notifications system to be implemented by this board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Kirby provided a copy of the budget. He reported the trend of high and low expenditures in the garage/maintenance fund are for fuel. Emergency Management is being billed every other month for fuel.
- The non-commissioned cars are painted and will be in service within the next month.
- TEMA has received grant funds for Task Force Development. A portion of the funds were used to purchase a new 40 foot flat-bed gooseneck trailer. The trailer will be for day-to-day use and remain empty year round for that purpose. Director Kirby confirmed most trailers owned by TEMA are loaded with equipment year round and unavailable for daily use.
- The district exercise held at the end of February was successful. All district Emergency Operation Centers were active as well as the mobile operations truck to test communication capability. He reported the satellite dish did fail; he plans to have it repaired soon. Over 100 participants were present for the multi-agency field exercise in Fountain County.
- TEMA has 20 new volunteers that will meet this evening for the Storm Spotter Training at Ivy Tech. A series of training exercises will take place throughout the next few months for the new volunteers. Director Kirby confirmed Martin Webb spent several hours on building the curriculum and will train new volunteers.
- Storm spotter training will be held tonight at Ivy Tech/Ivy Hall at 7:00 p.m.; it's free and open to the public.
- The annual Polar Plunge for the Public School Foundation was successful.

HAZMAT

- Deputy Director Tim Batta reported no HAZMAT responses in the last month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dave Reagan reported he is working to arrange a meeting with the mayors and townships to discuss sirens in their area, the costs, and obligations. A list will be provided with the location of the sirens and the cost to each entity/unit. Members decided it was most prudent to meet with entities to determine the coverage area.

Nathan Miller explained maintenance costs and a long-term plan and strategy should be discussed at a later date. Members agreed a representative from the board will contact entities in the near future to meet and ensure sufficient coverage before storm season.

OLD BUSINESS

Reverse 911

Director Kirby believes Sheriff Brown will meet with individual entities to discuss the new 911 system.

Area Plan Commission/Sirens

Chairman Smith provided a draft copy of a letter to the Area Plan Commission suggesting the idea of purchasing new sirens through the permit process. He asked all members sign the letter to represent full support of this board.

Siren Testing

County-wide siren testing will take place during Severe Weather Week March 15-21st. The actual day of testing will be March 18th between 10 & 11 a.m. and 7 & 7:30 p.m.

Zone Testing

This summer TEMA will perform zone testing; the exercise will allow EMA to activate sirens in specific locations.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Kirby reported the Sheriff's Department purchased a Reverse 911 system a few years ago with grant funds. The system he believes has never been used and is now stored in the county office building. The system will facilitate phone calls based upon geography to warn the community of an emergency. The system has the ability to operate a few different ways; the local calling feature which utilizes existing telephone lines to make calls at a rate capable by the system with a monthly recurring cost, a line grabber feature which overrides users to make emergency calls, and a mass calling feature by Reverse 911 can make several hundred calls in a geographical area with a cost associated above the original purchase price. He suggested there may be a monthly cost to maintain a database for the Reverse 911 to ensure accuracy of phone numbers. Director Kirby is under the impression the new 911 vendor will provide a Reverse 911 service. Chairman Smith said Purdue University has expressed interest in the equipment.

Chairman Smith will contact the Sheriff and invite him to the next meeting to determine how the new 911 system will affect Reverse 911 services.

Dave Reagan moved to adjourn.